GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2329
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
MECHANISM IN UNDERGROUND COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mechanisation in underground mines is not comparable with other coal producing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the challenge globally?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL & MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

(a) & (b): The level and degree of mechanisation in underground mines is not comparable with that of major coal producing countries for following reasons:-

(i) Geo-mining conditions i.e., gradient, thickness of coal seams, nature of roof and floor of coal seams, gassiness etc. are not comparable and not always favourable for large scale mechanisation.

(ii) Large reserves standing on pillars as a result of past development by Bord and Pillar system of mining are not conducive to mechanised extraction.

(iii) Non-availability of indigenous high productive equipment for underground mechanisation.

(c): To meet the challenge, the following steps are being taken:-

(i) Joint Working Group/Joint Commission/Bilateral Forum on coal have been set up by Government with advanced coal producing countries like Russia, France, Germany, Australia, China, Poland, United Kingdom to bring innew technologies in underground mining sector.

(ii) Introduction of Mass Production Technology in Bord & Pillar mining through global tender route and application of Longwall mining with powered support wherever geo- mining conditions permit, by coal PSUs.

(iii) Increased use of intermediate technology like application of Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs)/Load-Haul Dumpers (LHDs) in Bord & Pillar mining wherever possible.